

LAUREL RUN:- Laurel Run heads high up on Burr Valley Lick Mountain north east of Burr Post- Office and with several unnamed tributaries forms the drainage of Burr Valley . It then continues ^{west} to a point one- half mile north of Demar where it empties in to the Greenbrier River. It has a total length of 8.2 miles with a fall of 1220 feet or at the rate of 148.7 feet per mile. It has a drainage area of 13.38 square miles. This Branch was so named by the abundance of Laurel that grew on its waters.

ROCK RUN- Rock Run is another small branch with a single tributary emptying into Greenbrier River from the East one mile above Kennison.

The Rock Run is within the bounds of the Watoga State Park , is 1.7 miles long with a fall of 780 feet with a rate of fall per mile of 146.7 Feet and has a drainage area of 1.15 square miles.

ISLAND LICK RUN:- Island Lick Run empties into the Greenbrier River from the east midway between Seebert and Kennison having its source up on the west side of Pyle - Mountain. It has a total length of 4.8 miles with a fall of 750 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 156.2 feet, with a drainage basin area of 5.12 square miles.

It lies wholly within the bounds of the Watoga State Forest Park. A fine Rock Based road with an easy grade and graceful curver , was constructed the entire length of the Island Lick Run , and many ^{as} 25 log cabins with all modern conveniencies are erected on the Island Lick Run " The Administration Building " of the Watoga State Park , and the recreational artificial lake is situated upon the Island Lick Run.

Many tourist from all parts of the Country visit this branch yearly when the State Park season is open. This Island Lick Run received its name By the early pioneers , from the fact that there id a very large Island in the Greenbrier River near the mouth of the Run., and a deer lick was at the location of the Cabin next to the river hence the name Island Lick Run..

STAMPING CREEK:- Stamping Creek has its source in three small branches high up on the east side of the Cranberry Mountain. Its tributaries are Blue lick Run, and Tilda Fork, and other small unnamed branches. It flows in a south^{east}ward direction occasionally sinking beneath the limestone, but rising again near Millpoint where it is used intermittently to turn Overshot wheels to grind feed and flour, and to propel a small turbine generator. It enters Greenbrier River one-half mile north of Seebert. It has a meandering length of 6.8 miles with a total fall of 1710 feet, at a rate of 251.5 feet per mile. It has a drainage area of 15.8-square miles.

The name of Stamping Creek, was first given to the Branch by the first pioneer settlers of that vicinity, which was due to the fact that there was a certain place on the creek that the Deer, Elk, and Buffalo, would meet, and was called the Stamping Ground, which eventually emerged into the name of Stamping Creek.

NATURAL SETTING Pocahontas County.

CHAPTER THREE.

Part (1) Sec D)

Roscoe W. Brown.

May 17-1941.

STEVENS HOLE RUN;- Stevens Hole Run is a small stream of little importance but has considerable local interest. It has its source in a limestone Spring just west of the State highway 0.07 mile north east of Mill Point and flows in a southward direction to the Greenbrier River one mile north east of Seebert . It has a total ^{length} of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles , with a fall of 305 feet , at a rate of 122 feet per mile, with a drainage area of 3.75 Square miles.

Stevens Hole Run is so named after Steven Sewell, whom Colonel Andrew Lewis found at at Marlins Bottom, in 1751 with Jacob Marlin. Steven Sewell spent a winter soon after in a small cave just at the head of the Run. There is a tradition that the same Steven Sewell was killed by the Indians some years later on big Sewell Mountain, farther down the Greenbrier River. (But the same has been disputed by other writers) There is a tradition story, that a certain paymaster of a certain Ohio regiment stole the payroll when here for the Battle of Droop Mountain , and hid the money in "Stevens Hole". (Referred to as the Cave in which Steven Sewell lived) In Bowers' book the "Tragic Era." In writing up the carpet bag governor of a certain southern state, the writer says the said governor had been accused of absconding with the pay roll of a certain Ohio regiment.

A very interesting and well delineated description of this little branch and Cave, locally known as Stevens Hole, and the authentic history that it contains is portrayed in a special editorial written for the Pocahontas Times bearing date of July 14th 1927, by Andrew Price, President of the Historical Society of West Virginia. The letter is hereby given in full because of the historical data it gives in regard to "Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell, the two first settlers of the Greenbrier Valley, and other historical data.

Thursday July 14 th 1927.

Word came that the rock work at Stephen Hole Run on the Seneca Trail had destroyed the Cave in which Stephen Sewell lived in the Indian days, so I hot footed it down there to investigate the rumor and was delighted to find the cave was still there. The big limestone cliff a couple hundred feet high faces the State highway about three hundred yards distance, It is of the Big Lime or Greenbrier Limestone and many thousand tons have been blasted off the face of the cliff for use in surfacing the road.

The quarry is where the main spring issues and what gave rise to the report that the cave had been blasted out was that the point that the work had been going on the cliff overhung and formed a kind of shelter from a rain, but in nowise filled the specifications as a den or habitation. It would be like living out of doors. The real cave is high up the cliff some two hundred yards south of the works, and it is safe for many years to come. It is not at all likely that it will ever be needed for road work.

Stephen's Hole as it is called overlooks and is a hole in the wall that encloses the whole of the upper part of the valley. It is in a similar position to Cluny's Cage, that Robert Louis Stephenson tells us about in "Kidnapped" which was the hiding place of Cluny MacPherson at the time he was outlawed for the part he had taken against Cromwell, in favor of the exiled Stewart Kings. It is in the top of a cliff and hid by the trees and timber.

Stephen Hole Run or Sewell Run as it was sometimes called is a little spring branch crossing the highway a mile north of Millpoint. At this point the road to Huntersville branches off to the east and descends the little valley to Greenbrier River where it crosses at the mouth of Bever Creek up which it goes. This was the old time near cut to Huntersville, in the days when it was the county seat, and the river was low enough to ford. Above the road the run has formed a bog of a few acres in extent, and the bold clear stream that issues from it is from everlasting springs and does not vary much in volume the year around.

In the old days there was a well founded belief that if horses afflicted with the scratches, an affection of the skin in the fetlock, were watered, and their feet washed in this little stream that they would be cured, and it was the custom to bring horses there from the surrounding Levels community.

In the tourist day that is coming it will be the regular thing to halt the car at this point and the visitors will walk some three hundred yards and climb the declivity that brings them near the top of the cliff and inspect the cave. It will also afford them the boon of the finest drinking water, as cool and clear as is to be obtained in this world of ours.

I have never seen a cave that was so well suited for a habitation as this one. On climbing ^{to} the level of the opening first is found a smooth platform sort of place perhaps thirty by forty feet in size. Next is a great roof or portico which shelters which shelters a large portion of this trace, with an outcurving roof perhaps ten feet high. Then in the wall is a room about six feet wide and ten feet deep, with a low ceiling. A fire across the opening would keep this little retreat comfortable in the coldest weather. Back in this room is an opening of unknown dimensions but extending well back into the cliff. It is very dark there and would not be suitable place for living rooms but would be an ideal place to store food and supplies. The front room is fitted with a level floor, and being open to the outer air is in good condition now without a particle of fixing to afford a comfortable place to sleep and take shelter. No stream issues from this cave, and there is no current of air. It is an ideal place for camping and is one of the sights of the County.

If you have occasion to visit it, follow the path of up by an old abandoned sandheap. The place is Dr. H. W. Mc Neels farm, the top of the cliff being the dividing line between his farm and that of F. W. Ruckman land. Perhaps if you go into the cliff you will be on the Ruckman land as well as the McNeel land.

As is the case of every man who has ever cleared and reclaimed land, I am something of a landscape gardener. As you drive through these pleasant valleys, you should ~~will~~ remember that it was the man with the axe whose vision splendid and whole arises.

So I see great possibilities in that little cove which has not been much more than a waste place so far. It has been talked of as a place to grow water cress and there has been some slight effort to transplant wild cranberries into the bog part of the shut in place. On ~~the/other~~ every side is rich farm land but the cove has been unused except for some indifferent pasture, which in a section so solidly blue grass has not been much esteemed. With very little work there could be a little lake formed here of clear pure water. It would be surrounded by beautiful grassy shores and beetling crags would overlook it, there you would have grass, water, and a precipice in close harmony, and it would be one of the beauty spots of West-Virginia. The highway would skirt one side of the park, and Stephen Sewells everlasting house would look down on it, It would be just the right distance, eight miles, to make an attraction for the town of Marlinton, and it would be an objective for drives from Lewisburg, Ronceverte, White Sulphur Springs, and Hot Springs Virginia.

I have been weighing the somewhat slight evidence that has been left of of the pioneer Stephen Sewell. He came here with Jacob Marlin in the seventeen-forties both of them long hunters. I am now informed ~~now~~ by competent authority, - Hon. Boyd B. Stutler, the historian, that long hunter is not a synonym of a tall man but was a term to distinguish the professional hunter, who crossed into the forbidden lands beyond the mountains for months stay, as compared with those who took a week or so for the purpose of providing their winter meat.

He owes his fame like Marlin and every other notable to the fact that his name got into print and was preserved that way. Owing to this fact he and Marlin have come to be first English settlers of the Mississippi Valley. Their permanent camp was where the town of Marlinton is located and where they were found by General Andrew Lewis. Marlin survived the French and Indian war, and lived to the end of his life here. He married and had a daughter who married a Drinnep, and he has descendants here now.

Marlin and Sewell had the experience of men who are too closely associated. They quarreled and Sewell left the cabin and took up his abode in a hollow tree. The two places were separated by the crystal waters of Knapps Creek

Both the cabin and tree dwelling were located in the narrow pass through which Knapps Creek breaks through to reach the Greenbrier River. This stream flows between two peaks or headland marking the gate way to the great Knapps Creek Valley one a spur of the Buckley Mountain and the other a spur of Marlin Mountain. These peaks have never been given names, and it is now proposed to name them Mary and Elizabeth, after Elizabeth Dunlap, and Mary Vance Warwick.

The people of this county have specialized on the name of Marlin, and have allowed the people in a distant part of the State to use the name of Sewell. Thus Sewell is remembered by Big and Little Sewell Mountain, Sewell Creek, Sewell Valley, the town of Sewell, and one of the measures of coal of the New River section, known as the Sewell seam.

It is the common belief based upon a tradition, that Stephen Sewell left here, and moved to Sewell Creek which flows into the Gauley River, and that he was there killed by the Indians. As a defender of tradition, I am sorry to say that I have come to the conclusion that Stephen Sewell never lived farther west than the cave at the ^{Run} ~~Run~~ that bears his name in Pocahontas County, near Millpoint.

That he lived on the waters of Gauley is due to a statement prepared by Col. John Steart, the grand old man of Greenbrier County, in the year of 1798, and it is based on his report that Sewell moved forty miles farther west and lived on a creek that bears his name. It is not at all likely that Sewell lived on Gauley or any point west of the Greenbrier valley prior to 1756. David Tygart had to leave the nearby valley of Tygarts Valley River in 1754, and he is undoubtedly the original settler west of the long intervening valley of the Greenbrier.

At the same time, it is probable that Sewell ranged widely and Sewell Creek could have been named for him. But we have definite history of the time and place of his death. It occurred on the 11th day of September 1756, on Jacksons River, near Fort Dinwiddie. In 1750, Dr. Thomas Walker, an explorer towards Kentucky crossed the Greenbrier River at the mouth of Anthony's Creek and noted that he had word of white settlements higher up on the river.

He referred to people living at or near the mouth of Knapps Creek .

The next year the Lewises were settling whites on the lands surveyed for the Greenbrier Company . The war clouds began to gather in 1753 . France claimed all the land drained by the Mississippi . In pursuance of this claim they commenced the erection of a fort at Pittsburg. Governor Dinwiddie in 1753 sent George Washington with an ultimatum to the French to abandon their claim to Fort Duquesne, to which the French gave no heed. In 1754 Washington fought a losing campaign , and reached some agreement with the French at a place called the Great Meadows or Fort Necessity, near Brownsville Pennsylvania. Later in that year the Indians killed the Files family at Beverly, the first settlers to be massacred by the Indians in the French and Indian War. The next year the settlers on the frontier felt reasonably safe while Braddock was forming his army but even before his defeat in July, 1755, the Indians were killing on the Holston River and on the head waters of the New River

The first effect of Braddocks defeat in this section occurred just about a month after that time when the Indians appeared at the mouth of Knapps Creek and killed twelve persons and took eight prisoners . This raid ended the hostilities for the year 1755.

But in February and March 1756 they broke out again. This was caused largely by unfortunate expedition led by Gen Andrew Lewis in the winter of 1755-56 against the Ohio Indians. he marched an army of 418 men clear across the State of West Virginia to strike the Indians in their towns on the Ohio. It is called the Sandy Creek Voyage . It resulted in disaster and the men suffered from want of food and from the cold weather.

Chicken House Run. - Chicken House Run is another minor tributary of the Greenbrier River joining the latter stream one-half mile south of Watoga. It heads on the west slope of the Pyle Mountain and flows almost due west for a distance of 2.8 miles. Its drainage area is 2.42 square miles.

It has a total fall of 790 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 282.1 feet per mile.

There is a tradition that the branch was so named from the fact that one of the old pioneer hunters of this section of Pocahontas County knowing that the branch was infested with Foxes and other varmints, and in order to catch them, he placed a small Chicken House on a stump with one or two chickens inside the coop, then placed spring traps all around and about the Chicken House, and thereby caught many of the Foxes and Varmints by this method of enticing them with a chicken; And the branch has been thereafter called "Chicken House Run".

BEAVER CREEK:- Beaver Creek is made up of two branches with several small tributaries roughly forming a "Y" the southern branch heading well up on the west side of Beaver Lick Mountain with the northern branch heading on the east side of the Buckley Mountain to join the Greenbrier River at Violet. The old County Road from Hillsboro to Huntersville followed along this stream when Huntersville was the County Seat of Pocahontas County. Beaver Creek has a drainage area of 16.27 square miles. and has a total ^{length} ~~fall~~ of 8.6 miles with a total fall of 940 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 114.6 feet.

Beaver Creek was so named from the famous Beavers that once infested its waters.

IMPROVEMENT LICK RUN:- THE Improvement Lick Run is a small stream with a length of 3.6 miles, having its source near the top of the Buckley Mountain and flowing westward to join Greenbrier River one mile north east of Violet. So named by a pioneer who had made some improvement on his deer blind at the lick, on this particular branch, having one located on Sunday Lick, and Monday Lick Runs. Improvement Lick Run has a total fall of 835 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 231.9 feet.

MONDAY LICK: and SUNDAY LICK RUN, S

These two small Branches head near the top of Buckley Mountain and flow in a westward direction to join the Greenbrier River about 800 feet apart one mile south of Stillwell. Monday Lick Run has an entire length of 2.5 miles with a total fall of 700 feet, with a rate of fall of 280 feet per mile, with drainage area of 2.02 square miles.

Sunday Lick Run, has an entire length of 2.4 miles, with a fall of 950 feet, with a rate of fall of 395.8 feet per mile, and has a drainage area basin of 1.21 square miles.

In pioneer days Deer Licks were frequented on these branches, and fanciful names were given them by the old pioneer hunters. There is a tradition that once a hunter killed a deer on one of these branches on Sunday at one of these licks; and it was thereafter called Sunday Lick Run, Hunting on Sunday was frowned upon by the early settlers and the name was given as an enduring reproof. In order to designate the two Lick Runs the other branch was called Monday Lick Run. Lens Ridge is situated between Monday Lick, and Sunday Lick, and was so named from an old pioneer hunter by the name of Len Hunday, no doubt the branches were named for him..

STILL HOUSE RUN:- Another run of small importance heading near the north end of Buckley Mountain is locally known as Still House Run, and is the first stream south of Knapps Creek and flows into the Greenbrier River at the Lumber town of Stillwell, Its total length is 3.1 miles with a drainage area of 2.6 square miles. Still House Run was so named from the fact that a Still House was absconded away in a thicket of pines and Laurel on the branch..

SWAGO CREEK:- Swago Creek is a stream with a considerable volume of water originating largely from springs that emerge high up in the Swago Mountain and Days Mountain; near Spruce Flats. It is composed of the following branches or tributaries: Mc Blintock Run, Overholt Run, Dry Run, and Buck Run

This network of streams has cut a prominent cove between the range of Rodgers Mountain, Swago Mountain, and Spruce Flats. Swago Creek enters Greenbrier River at Buckeye, and has a drainage area of 12,92 square miles and has a total length of 3.3 miles with a total fall of 1295 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 392.4 feet. McClintocks flour mill was situated on this branch, but is now not in use.

Swago Creek has one of the oldest settlements that was made in Pocahontas County; The notable family of Ewings settled on Swago about the year 1770, having sold their land holdings to Moses Moore on Knapps Creek; William Ewing known as "Swago Bill" was living on Swago Creek in the year of 1786, he blazed a line of trees around the lands he selected, and afterwards had the tract patented. Onee he was plowing when the alarm came that the Indians were preparing to attack the settlement, he hid his plow in the woods and with the other settlers made haste to the nearest fort which was Millpoint then known as Fort Day; a few days afterwards he ventured back to get his plow, and while proceeding through the woods with his plow, he was alarmed by a snapping sound, and turning to one side he saw three Indians behind a log with their guns pointed at him, they had tried to shoot but their powder was damp, and their guns had missed fire; William Ewing dropped his plow and started to the Fort fast as he could run, with the Indians after him. Going over a raise of the ground into a small hollow, he changed his course, ran up the hollow a short distance and stopped, and then saw the Indians rush by in the regular course. Ewing then made his way to the fort in safety. This was about the time that the Drennan raid occurred, when James Baker and the Bridger Boys were killed, which was in the year of 1786.

It has been told that Swago Creek was so named from the Oswega Indians ; the 'Swago' word is compounded from the Indian word "Otsego" "Ot" meaning a place of meeting, and the word Sago" an Indian term of salutation; and the two words coined together emerged into the word SWAGO which means a meeting place- " A happy meeting place " Swago" is one of the beautiful Indian names that is common among the Alleghenies.

It has also been stated that Swago Creek was named after William Ewing locally known as "Swago Bill" Ewing , but records will show that Swago Creek will antedate that of "Swago Bill" He was named Swago Bill because he lived on Swago Creek.

On the head of Swago Creek there is a "Natural Bridge" formed by a stratum of the limestone , about forty feet high in length and fifteen feet high , under which the stream flows . This bridge is in a very rugged country in the forest.

MARLINS RUN; - Marlins Run is a small run of minor importance, except the local history that it bears in connection with its name-sake .

Heading near the Marlin Mountain and flowing due west for a distance of 2.7 miles through the town of Marlinton to join Knapps Creek one-half mile above its mouth, It has a total fall of 630 feet with a drainage area of 1.56 square miles

Marlins Run , has the honor of having the first persons of English or Scotch Irish antecedents to spend a winter in what is now Pocahontas County who were Marlin and Sewell . This was the year of 1750-51 , Their Camp was in the delta formed by Marlins Run and the Knapps Creek . In the course of time they agreed to disagree - over the question of their Religion , they separated and was living apart when they were found by Colonel Andrew Lewis, Marlin was in the Cabin , and Sewell had taken up his abode in a hollow sycamore tree, on the west margin of the slough , quite near where the walk now crosses , and about in line with a walnut tree now standing on the east bank of the drain and the Court house.